

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /148 W

----- 008182

R 081717 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9900

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 6366

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12579

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF

SUBJ: UNSYG REPORT ON NAMIBIA

REF : USUN 1668 AND 1667

1. EMBOFF, MAY 7, DISCUSSED WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS COMBAL AND DIRECTOR UN AFFAIRS LEPRETTE PROSPECTS FOR EXTENSION OF UNSYG MANDATE ON NAMIBIA. BOTH AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO EXTEND MANDATE, IF ONLY AS MEANS OF KEEPING PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA. AS THEY SEE IT, SAG HAS SIGNIFICANTLY MODIFIED ITS POSITION, WITH COMMITMENT TO INDEPENDENCE OVER TEN YEAR PERIOD AND ASSURANCES ABOUT UNITY OF TERRITORY BEING PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF SAG'S RECENT STATEMENT. BOTH AGREED THAT OVER LONGER RUN AFRICANS WOULD BE WISE TO USE SECRETARY GENERAL TO ACCELERATE PROCESS OF DECOLONIALIZATION TO WHICH SAG NOW COMMITTED. SHOULD SYG'S MANDATE BE EXTENDED, COMBAL FELT IT SHOULD BE FOR PERIOD LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS WHICH CLEARLY PROVIDED NO TIME FOR USEFUL ACTION.

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2. WHILE PESSIMISTIC, COMBAL SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WERE SOME AFRICANS WHO, AS IN PAST, RECOGNIZED THAT CONTINUATION OF SYG' S MANDATE WAS ONLY REALISTIC COURSE OF ACTION, AND THAT TO CLOSE THIS DOOR WOULD NOT BE IN AFRICANS' OWN INTERESTS. GOF, HE NOTED PARENTHETICALLY, WOULD NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANY AFRICAN EFFORT TO GET UN TO ENDORSE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. COMBAL NOTED THAT HE ALSO HAD HAD INDICATION THAT MADAME CISSE MIGHT PLAY MODERATING ROLE IN UNSC DISCUSSIONS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO TACTICS, BOTH COMBAL AND LEPRETTE DOUBTED UTILITY OF MAKING DEMARCHES IN AFRICAN CAPITALS BEFORE OAU SUMMIT. COMBAL SAID THAT, WHILE DECISION STILL UNDER REVIEW, UP TO SECRETARY GENERAL LEVEL IN QUAI FEELING WAS NOT TO MAKE ANY DEMARCHES, ALTHOUGH BOTH BRITISH AND NORWEGIANS WERE PRESSING FRENCH TO DO SO. GOF WOULD THEREFORE PROBABLY AWAIT OUTCOME OF OAU SUMMIT AND THEN DECIDE WHAT KIND OF LOBBYING WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IN NEW YORK.

4. EMBOFF SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE AWARE , USG HAD TAKEN NO DECISION TO MAKE DEMARCHES EVEN IN SELECTED CAPITALS. HE RECALLED THAT DURING LAST GO- ROUND ON NAMIBIA IN NOVEMBER 1972, USG HAD NOT LOBBIED IN CAPITALS BUT HAD CONFINED EFFORTS TO WORK WITH AFRICAN UN DELEGATIONS. COMBAL SAID THAT THIS TIME FRENCH WOULD PROBABLY DO THE SAME.

5. COMMENT: FRENCH HAVE APPARENTLY COME ROUND TO TACTICAL POSITION WE ADOPTED LAST NOVEMBER AFTER HAVING TRIED APPROACH OF LOBBYING IN CAPITALS AT THAT TIME. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT USG TACTICS REMAIN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. HOWEVER, SHOULD WE DECIDE TO MAKE DEMARCHES IN SELECTED CAPITALS, EITHER ALONE OR IN COORDINATION WITH BRITISH, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INFORM FRENCH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
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